



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2007, 2:00 pm CST

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Bruning Announces Plea in Medicaid Fraud Case

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced Richard VonSpreckelsen of Harvard, NE entered a plea of no contest to one felony charge of theft by unlawful taking in Clay County District Court yesterday.

“Mr. VonSpreckelsen had a moral and legal responsibility to protect his mother’s interests,” Bruning said. “He exploited that responsibility and now will face the consequences.”

VonSpreckelsen was accused of stealing nearly \$20,000 of his mother’s money while he was acting as her power of attorney. He would use funds from his mother’s social security checks for his own living expenses instead of paying for his mother’s care. VonSpreckelsen was unemployed and living in his mother’s house while she resided in Harvard Rest Haven nursing home.

Theft by unlawful taking is a class IV felony, punishable by up to 5 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for January 9, 2008 at 10:15 a.m. in Clay County District Court.

The case was investigated by the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and handled by Assistant Attorney General Mark Collins.

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An audio clip about the plea is posted on the Attorney General’s web site at www.ago.ne.gov